

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5850
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, AU, WB, IS, EG
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR ADDRESSES BERLIN "PRESSEKONFERENZ"

REF: USBERLIN 3138

SUMMARY: AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S VISIT TO WEST BERLIN DEC 9
CAME OFF WITHOUT ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS. HIS SPEECH BEFORE
BERLIN PRESSEKONFERENZ FOCUSED ON THE PROSPECTS FOR A SETTLEMENT
IN THE MIDDLE EAST, MBFR, DETENTE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
IN ENERGY AND FINANCE. END SUMMARY

1. AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY VISITED BERLIN DEC 9 AS THE
PRIVATE GUEST OF THE WEST BERLIN "PRESSEKONFERENZ"; AN ARGANIZA-
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TION OF EDITORS, WRITERS, ACADEMICS AND OTHERS WITH AN INTEREST
IN WORLD POLITICS. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, KREISKY IS THE
HIGHEST RANKING GUEST YET TO ADDRESS THE PRESSEKONFERENZ IN
PUBLIC, AND IS CERTAINLY THE FIRST HEAD OF GOVERNMENT TO
DO SO. THE BERLINER PRESSEKONFERENZ HOPES KREISKY'S
VISIT WILL SET A PRECEDENT WHICH WILL BE REPEATED ANNUALLY
IN THE YEARS TO COME.

2. WEST BERLIN PRESS GAVE PROMINENT FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE TO KREISKY'S VISIT AND SPEECH. MOST PAPERS LED WITH HIS STATEMENT THAT IT IS UP TO ISRAEL TO TAKE "THE BIG STEP" AND PROPOSE A PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH WOULD ACCOMMODATE THE DEMANDS FOR THE FOUNDING OF THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND. KREISKY WARNED THAT, WERE ISRAEL TO FAIL TO ACT IN THE WAKE OF SADAT'S VISIT TO JERUSALEM, THE CHANCES OF WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE RELATED THREAT THIS WOULD POSE TO EUROPE WOULD BE INCREASED CONSIDERABLY. KREISKY STRESSED THAT EUROPE HAS A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO PRESERVE THE ISRAELI STATE, BUT OBSERVED THAT IT WAS EQUALLY NECESSARY FOR EUROPE TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE FORM OF COOPERATION WITH THE OIL-PRODUCING MIDDLE EASTERN STATES. ANY NEAR EAST SOLUTION, KREISKY STRESSED, MUST THEREFORE, ACHIEVE A BALANCE BETWEEN ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST IN PEACE AND THE EQUALLY JUSTIFIABLE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIANS TO HAVE A HOMELAND.

3. ADDRESSING MATTERS PARTICULARLY OF EUROPEAN INTERESTS, KREISKY EMPHASIZED THE NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF CONTINENTAL-WIDE COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY. HE ALSO CALLED FOR GREATER COOPERATION IN THE EXTENSION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE TO THE EAST, NOTING THAT MANY WESTERN STATES AND NOT JUST THE CEMA NATIONS, BENEFIT FROM THE LONG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TERM SUPPLY CONTRACTS INVOLVED IN EAST-WEST TRADE.

4. KREISKY ALSO STATED THAT HE FELT IT WAS HIGH TIME THAT THE VIENNA MBFR TALKS BROUGHT FORTH CONCRETE RESULTS TO DEMONSTRATE THE EARNEST OF BOTH SIDES IN ACHIEVING DEMILITARIZATION IN EUROPE.

5. KREISKY APPEALED "IN ALL POLITICAL DIRECTIONS" NOT TO ENDANGER DETENTE OVER THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. DETENTE, HE ARGUED, IS ONLY NOW ENTERING A PHASE MARKED BY CONCRETE DEVELOPMENTS, AND THE BELGRADE CSCE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE DEPENDS ON THESE CONCRETE RESULTS FOR SUCCESS. THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT, KREISKY ARGUED, WAS NOT THE BEGINNING OF DETENTE IN EUROPE; RATHER IT WAS A GREAT EVENT WHICH IN ITSELF MANIFESTED THE INTEREST IN DETENTE WHICH HAD BEGUN IN EUROPE, IN KREISKY'S OPINION, WITH THE SIGNING OF THE AUSTRIAN STATE TREATY IN 1955.

6. FOR BONN AND WASHINGTON: KREISKY'S FLIGHT TO BERLIN ABOARD THE AMERICAN-OWNED BERLINAIR TAXI CHARTER SERVICE WAS UNEVENTFUL. THE SOVIETS IN BASC MADE NO ORAL STATEMENT, ALTHOUGH THEY STAMPED THE FLIGHT INFORMATION CARD WITH THE

USUAL "SAFETY OF FLIGHT NOT GUARANTEED" STAMP. KREISKY'S
FLIGHTS TOOK PLACE BEFORE SOVIETS ANNOUNCED THEIR INTEN-
TION TO STAMP ALL BERLINAIR FLIGHT CARDS "FLIGHT IS NOT
PERMITTED," REFTEL.GEORGE

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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